

CLAIMS

1.- 14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A system for using services provided by a communication network, the system comprising:

a communication network having internet mechanisms and a central register database for providing information about the services accessible from the communication network;

at least one automation system having automation components connected by a conventional field bus, the automation components lacking internet mechanisms; and

a service access unit operative as one element of the automation system and connected to the field bus, the service access unit for connecting the conventional field bus to the communication network, wherein the service access unit operates as a client for requesting services, as requested by automation components, from the communication network and operates as a server for providing web services in the communication network, the service access unit further including a protocol converter for adapting a first communication protocol used by the services to a second communication protocol used by the field bus, thereby permitting the automation components to communicate with internet mechanisms of the communication network, the service access unit further comprising a search means for addressing the central register database, services requested by the service access unit becoming active in the automation system.

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the services are web services.

19. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the communication network is an intranet.

20. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the service access unit provides further services in the communication network.

21. (currently amended) A method for using services provided in at least one communication network having internet mechanisms and at least one automation system comprising automation components connected by a conventional field bus, the method comprising:

connecting the conventional field bus to the communication network by a service access unit, the automation components lacking internet mechanisms and the communication network having a central register database for providing information about the services accessible from the communication network, the service access unit operative as one element of the automation system and connected to the field bus;

adapting a first communication protocol used by the services to a second communication protocol used by the field bus by a protocol converter included in the service access unit, thereby permitting the automation components to access internet mechanisms of the communication network; and

accessing the services by the automation components using the service access unit as a client, the services requested by the automation components, wherein the service access unit operates as a server for providing services in the communication network, the service access unit comprising a search means for addressing the central register database, services requested by the service access unit becoming active in the automation system.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the services are web services.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the communication network is an intranet.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the service access unit provides further services in the communication network.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the services include executing a software update of at least one of the automation components.

28. (currently amended) A service access unit for connecting an automation system having automation components to a communication network having internet mechanisms, the communication network having a central register database for providing information about the services accessible from the communication network, the service access unit comprising a protocol converter for adapting a first communication protocol used by the services to a second communication protocol used by a conventional field bus, the automation components lacking internet mechanisms, the service access unit operative as one element of the automation system and connected to the field bus, the conventional field bus connecting the automation components, wherein the service access unit further operates as a client for requesting services from the communication network, or as a server for providing services in the communication network and permitting the automation components to communicate with the internet mechanisms of the communications network, the service access unit further comprising a search means for addressing the central register database, services requested by the service access unit becoming active in the automation.